| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Nora B |
| **To:** | McGovern, Marc; Devereux, Jan; Carlone, Dennis; Simmons, Denise; Zondervan, Quinton; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Toomey, Tim; Kelley, Craig; Mallon, Alanna |
| **Subject:** | Divesting from HP |
| **Date:** | Thursday, April 12, 2018 2:51:11 PM |

Dear Cambridge City Council,

I am writing as a Cambridge resident committed to social justice and racial equity to urge Cambridge to divest from HP Enterprise and HP Inc. I am grateful for Cambridge's history of progressive action on many important issues and the City's commitment to human rights. As someone who strongly supports Cambridge's sanctuary city status, I believe Cambridge should honor that status by not contracting with HP Enterprises given the company's role in the technology essential to ICE's ability to track, detain, and deport immigrants.Our immigrant friends and neighbors deserve safety and dignity in our city, and Cambridge should not support businesses that aid the government agencies causing them to live in constant fear of deportation.

Cambridge was one of the first cities to divest from apartheid South Africa. To continue its commitment to divest in unjust policies worldwide, I want to see Cambridge divest from HP Enterprise and HP Inc until the companies stop supporting the Israeli government's institutionalized violence against and oppression of Palestinians.

As someone who has worked for the last six years to fight the injustice LGBTQ people face within the prison system, I know that state and federal prisons in the U.S. cause significant violence and oppression of LGBTQ people and working class communities of color. As a person who supports racial justice, I feel strongly that Cambridge should divest completely from HP Enterprise given the company's role in developing "data inmate tracking" for major prison systems including but not limited to the California Department of Corrections. Such forms of technologically enhanced incarceration and state control have many inhumane effects, especially on poor and working class people. Cambridge should live up to its progressive legacy and put its money where its mouth is. Given HP Enterprise and HP Inc's involvement in supporting numerous such human rights abuses, I believe Cambridge should immediately end contracts with these companies. Until this corporation changes its practices, Cambridge has an ethical responsibility to divest so we don't use our city's resources to support such inhumane practices.

I urge you to take a stand on these critical human rights issues when you vote on this issue on the 23rd.

Sincerely,

Nora Berson
295 Windsor St. #4
Cambridge, MA 02139

617-584-8572